Yost House

By:

Dale C. Maley

Yost House

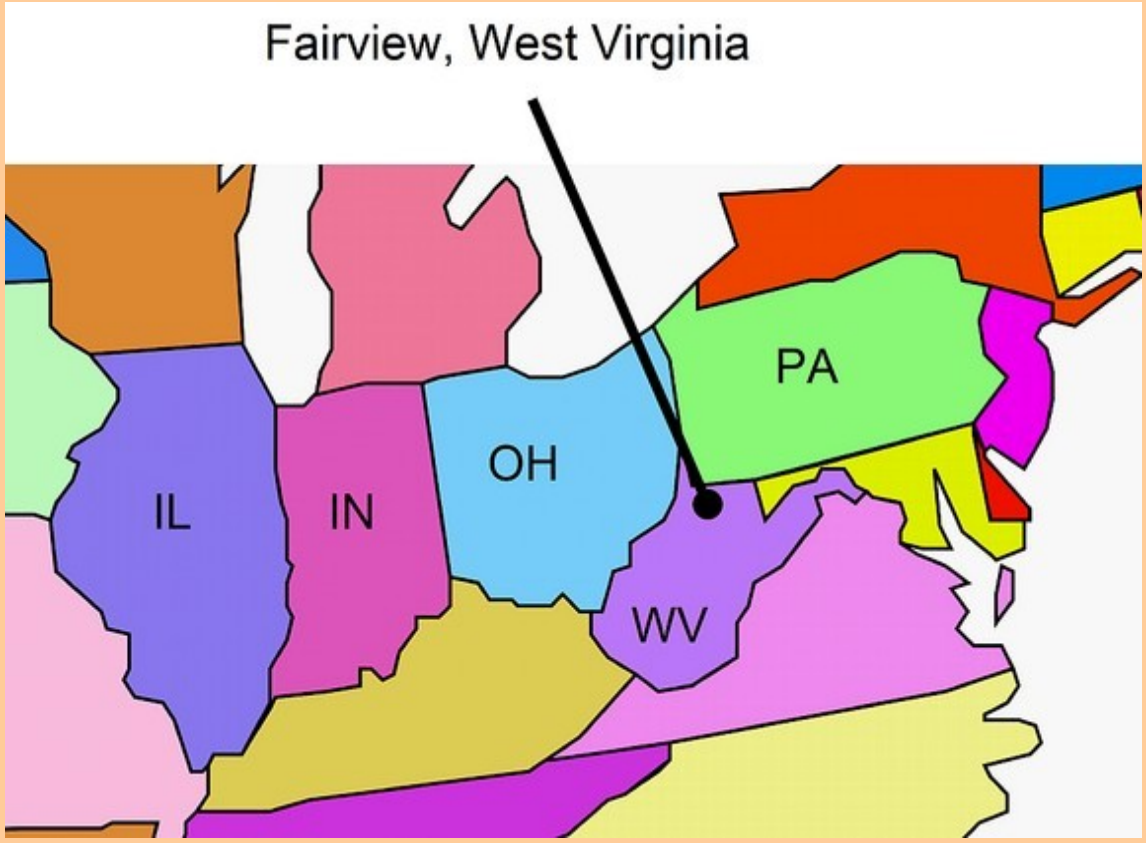
Year	Number of Articles with Yost	Newspaper Name	Source	
1958	20	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	*only 4 months
1959	67	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1960	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1961	37	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1962	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1963	50	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1964	66	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1965	65	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1966	70	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1967	45	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1968	45	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1969	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1970	52	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1971	5	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1972	16	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1973	19	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1974	29	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1975	23	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1976	17	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1977	18	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	

Illustrates the Yost family impact on the Pontiac area !!

Yost House

Education of Zoath Yost

Zoath Yost was born and raised on a farm in Fairview, West Virginia, in Marion County. The village of Fairview is in northern West Virginia and is a short distance from Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Yost House

- Zoath Yost attended West Virginia University at Morgantown and graduated from the Department of Science in 1886.

- Classmates of Zoath Yost that later became nationally famous were Bishop Edwin Hughes and his brother Bishop Matthew Hughes.

- Another classmate and friend was George Burnham Foster, former head of the comparative religion department at the University of Chicago.

- After graduating from West Virginia University, Zoath Yost became employed as a life insurance salesman and agent for the New York Life Insurance Company.

Yost House

- **Ella Louise Hartshorn**

- Ella was the daughter of Thomas Colt Hartshorn (1830-1890) and Catherine Williams (1840-1920). Catherine Williams was the daughter of James and Catherine Williams and was born in 1840 in West Wheeling, Virginia. Catherine Williams married Dr. Thomas Colt Hartshorn in 1859. Dr. Hartshorn and his wife moved to Pontiac in the early 1860s. They lived at 303 West Water Street in Pontiac.

- Ella Louise Hartshorn was born in Pontiac in 1866. She attended Pontiac schools and then attended schools in Chicago, Rockford College, and Western College in Oxford, Ohio.

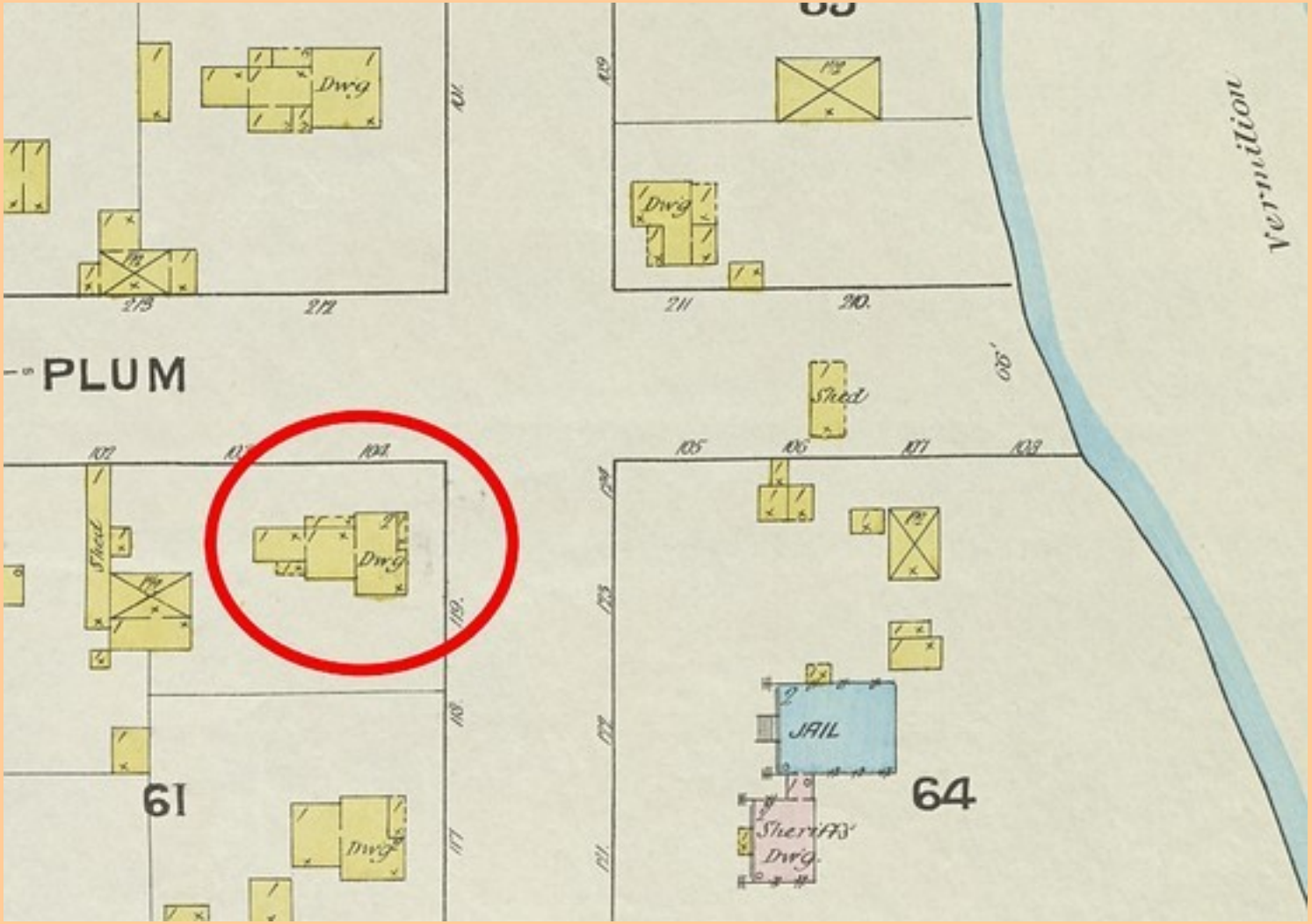
Yost House

- Prior to her marriage to Zoath Yost, Ella Louise Hartshorn lived with her parents at 303 West Water Street.

- This house was built in the early 1860s and is shown on the 1888 Sanborn Map of Pontiac.

- Note that in 1888 Plum Street ran from Water Street to the Vermilion River.

Yost House



Ella's House

Yost House

Marriage of Zoath Yost

- On November 18, 1890, Zoath Yost married Ella Louise Hartshorn in Pontiac.

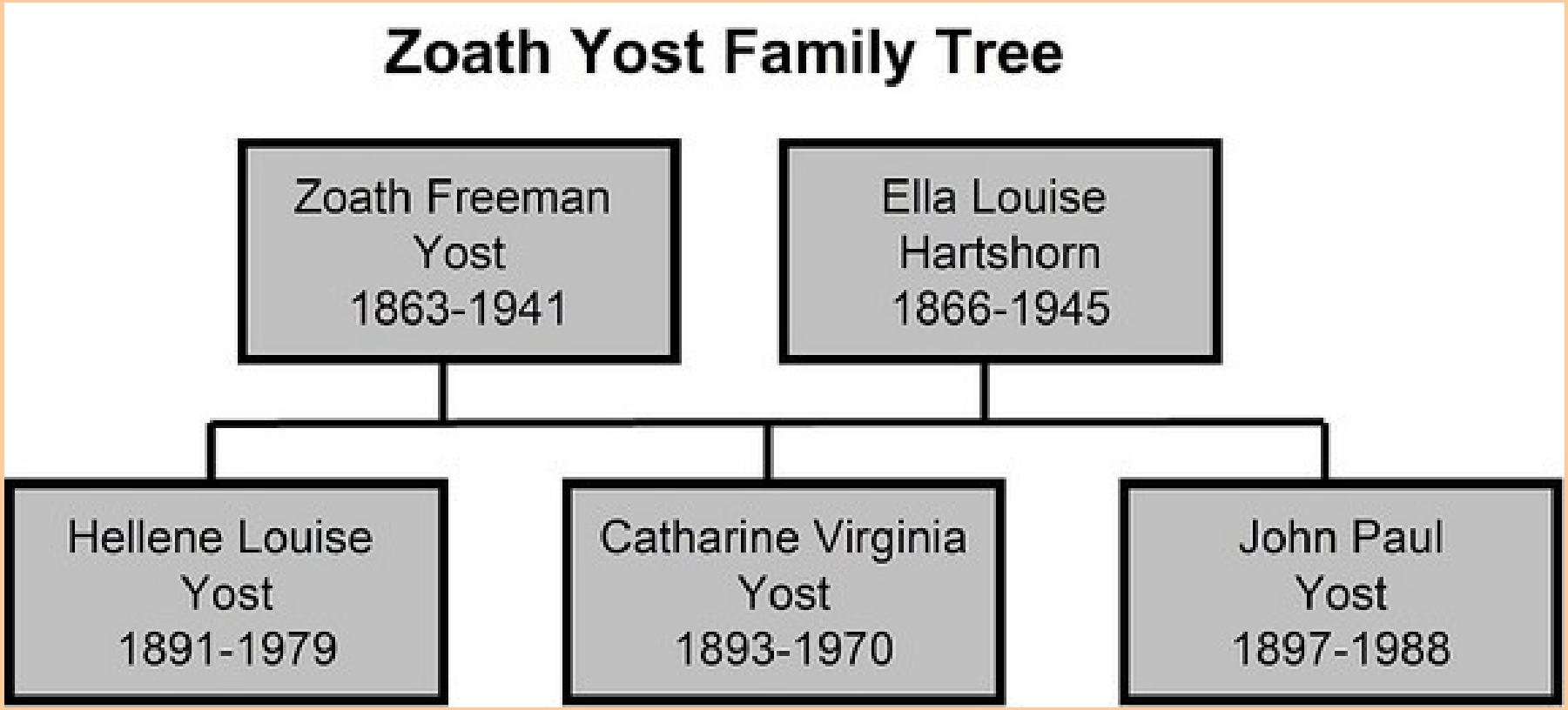
- Zoath was 28 and Ella was 25 years of age when they married.

Yost House

- After marriage and after working five years in the life insurance industry, Zoath Yost decided to start attending law school at his alma mater, West Virginia University.

- Zoath graduated with a bachelor of law degree in the Class of 1893.

Yost House


Zoath Yost Family Tree
Zoath Freeman Yost 1863-1941
Ella Louise Hartshorn 1866-1945
Hellene Louise Yost 1891-1979
Catharine Virginia Yost 1893-1970
John Paul Yost 1897-1988

Yost House

Zoath Yost Elected Pontiac City Attorney in 1895

Yost House

Yost House Built in 1898

- When the year 1898 began, Zoath Yost now had a family of five and needed a larger house.

- Family lore says the Ella Yost wanted to live near her mother and also have a house on the Vermilion River.

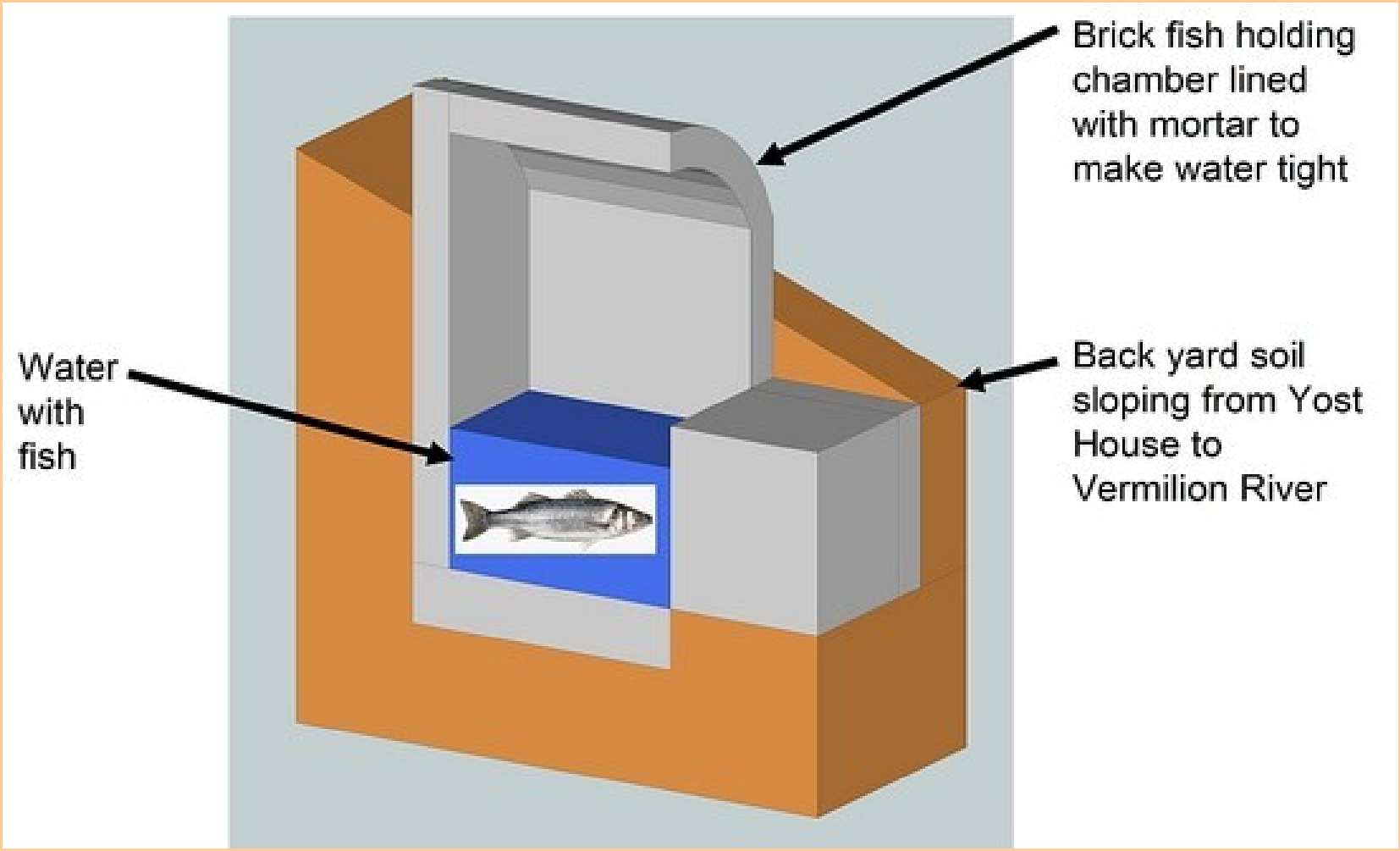
- Since Zoath Yost was the Pontiac City Attorney, he was able to have the short piece of Plum Street removed that ran south from Water Street to the Vermilion River.

- With the street gone, the Yosts were able to build a new house on the Vermilion River.

Yost House

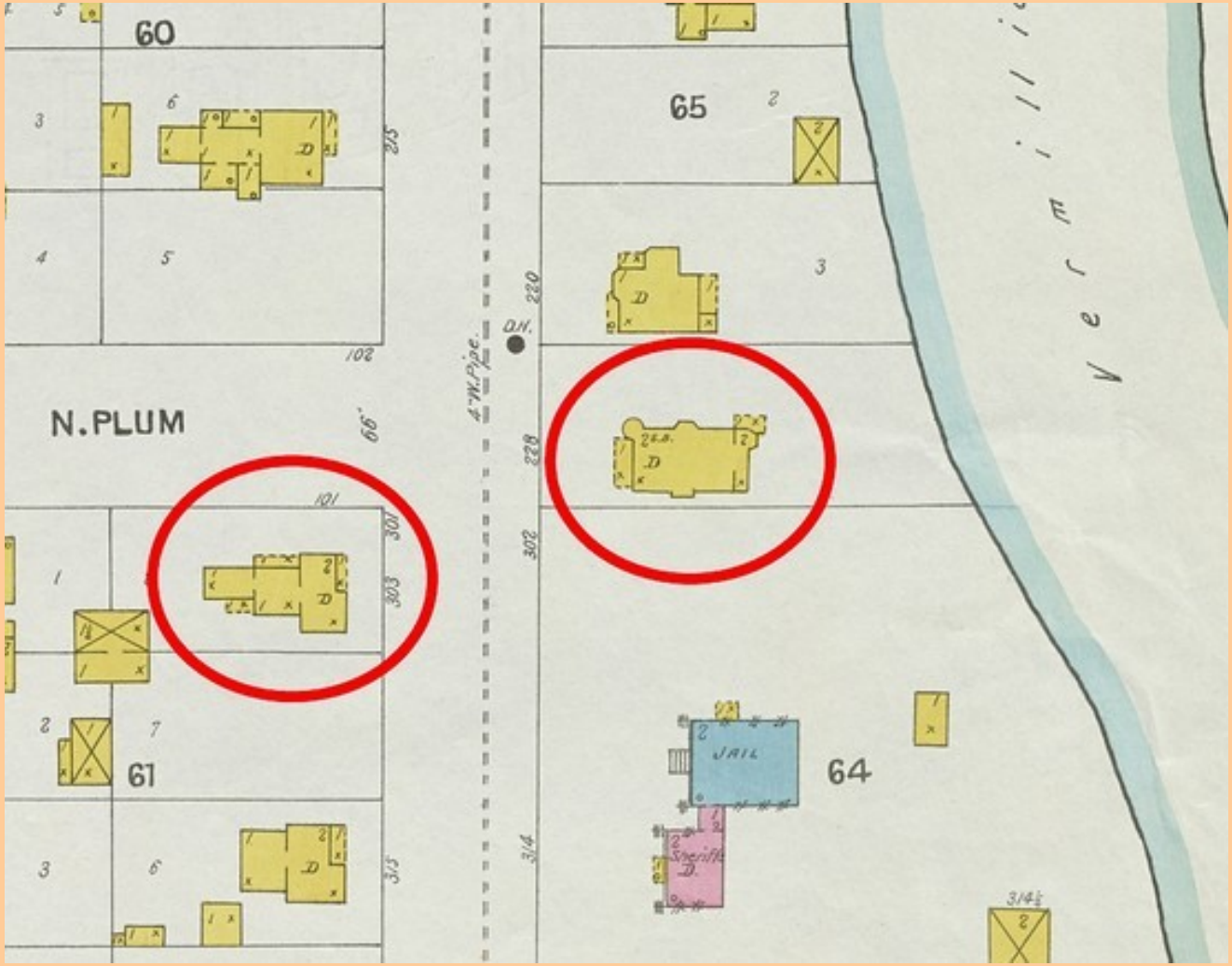
Fish Holding Tank

Yost House



Cross-sectional view of fish storage tank between the Yost House and the Vermilion River

Yost House



This map shows the Yost House built where Plum Street used to be south of Water Street. Also shown is the house where the mother of Ella Yost lived across Water Street to the north.

Yost House

- Hellene Yost was born in Pontiac in 1891. She attended Pontiac schools and likely graduated high school in 1910.

- She then attended the Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Hellene graduated with the class of 1914 with a bachelors degree in art.

- After graduating from Randolph-Macon College in 1914, she became a teacher at the Rivesville, West Virginia High School. Although the 1915 Pantagraph article recounted that Hellene started to attend the University of Chicago in the fall of 1915, she must have changed her mind and continued to teach high school in Rivesville.

Yost House

- Pearl Buck, the famous writer, was a classmate of Hellene Yost at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg.

- The 1922 catalog for the college shows both Hellene Yost and Pearl Buck graduating in the Class of 1914.

Yost House

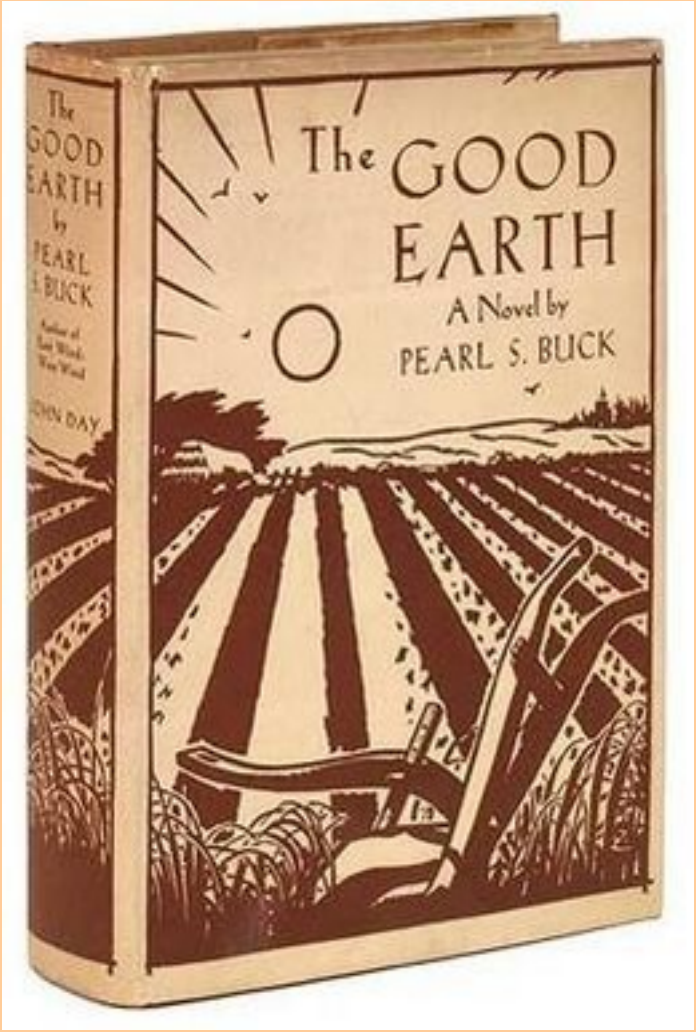
Pearl S. Buck

•Pearl Sydenstricker Buck (June 26, 1892 - March 6, 1973) was an American writer and novelist.

•She is best known for The Good Earth, the best-selling novel in the United States in 1931 and 1932 and which won her the Pulitzer Prize in 1932.

•In 1938, Buck became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature "for her rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China" and for her "masterpieces", two memoir-biographies of her missionary parents.

Yost House



Yost House

Zoath Yost Wins Lawsuit and Stops City of Pontiac from Polluting Vermilion River

- Attorney Z. F. Yost, who represents the plaintiffs in the complaint of Peter J. Peterson and others against the city of Pontiac and others for pollution of the waters of the Vermilion river, today received word from the secretary of the state rivers and harbors commission that the commission yesterday entered an order commanding that the city cease pollution of the river on or before February 9, 1916.

- This says that the city of Pontiac must, within a year provide some means for purifying the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

Yost House

Education of Catharine Yost

Her 1979 obituary recounts her educational background.

Miss Yost was born in Pontiac, Sept. 16, 1893, a daughter of Z. F. and Ella Louise (Hartshorn) Yost. She attended Pontiac schools, Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, Va., the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts for a term and the Art Institute of Chicago for two years.

Yost House

Mr. J. Paul Yost was born Jan. 8, 1897, in Pontiac, a son of Z. F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost. Two sisters preceded him in death.

Mr. Yost graduated from Pontiac Township High School and was a 1920 graduate of the University of Chicago.

An attorney, Mr. Yost had practiced in West Virginia.

**Attended same West Virginia Law School as his father

Yost House

Paul Yost Stars in College Club Play that tours West Virginia Cities in 1921

- While he was attending law school at West Virginia University, Paul Yost was an active member of Dramatic Club. In August and September of 1921, the Dramatic Club traveled and put on plays in several West Virginia cities. Paul Yost was one of the lead actors in these plays.

- The October 23, 1921, edition of the Charleston Daily Mail published a story about the traveling college plays. The story noted that J. Paul Yost of Pontiac, Illinois, had been elected to the position of Vice-President of the Dramatic Club for the next year.

Yost House

Paul Yost Tours Europe

The September 6, 1930, Pantagraph published a story which mentions that Paul Yost recently finished a tour of Europe.

Yost House

In 1930 Mr. Yost spent several months in Europe, studying stage productions in Paris, Munich, Berlin, and London. He has had considerable experience in Little Theater directing.

Paul Yost, director of the Community Players' next production, "Lombardi, Ltd.," has had extensive experience in dramatic work in the east.

Yost House

Paul Yost Received WPA Grant in 1936

RECREATIONAL WORK TO OPEN

Paul Yost, Livingston County Director, Reports on Preparations

PONTIAC.—Livingston county's $24,000 recreation project, under WPA auspices, will get under way next week, Paul Yost, director, told the Pontiac Woman's club directors Tuesday afternoon.

First projects to start will be classes in dramatics for grade school pupils. The program will be expanded in Pontiac and in the county as a whole as equipment for various activities is obtained. The armory has been obtained as the recreation center for Pontiac, he announced. Ping pong tables and other indoor sports material has been requisitioned.

Yost House

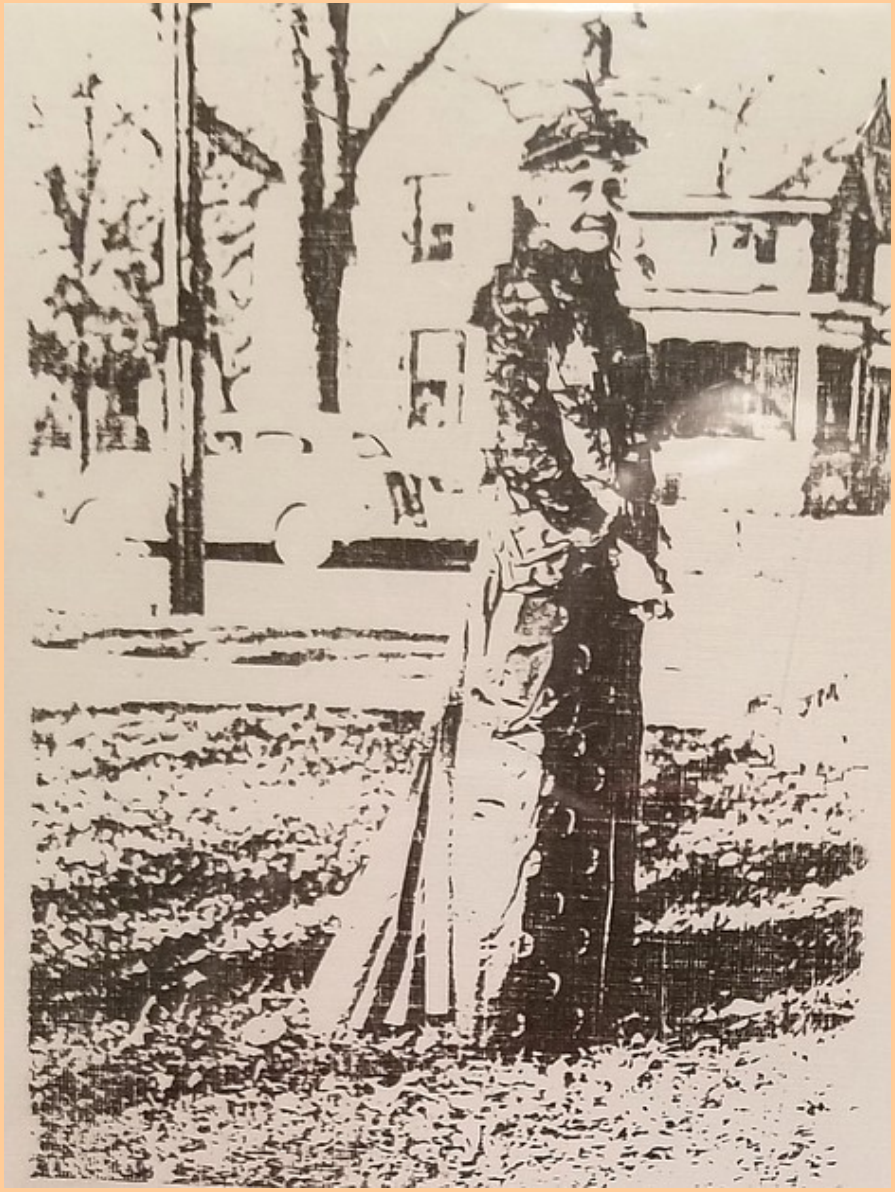
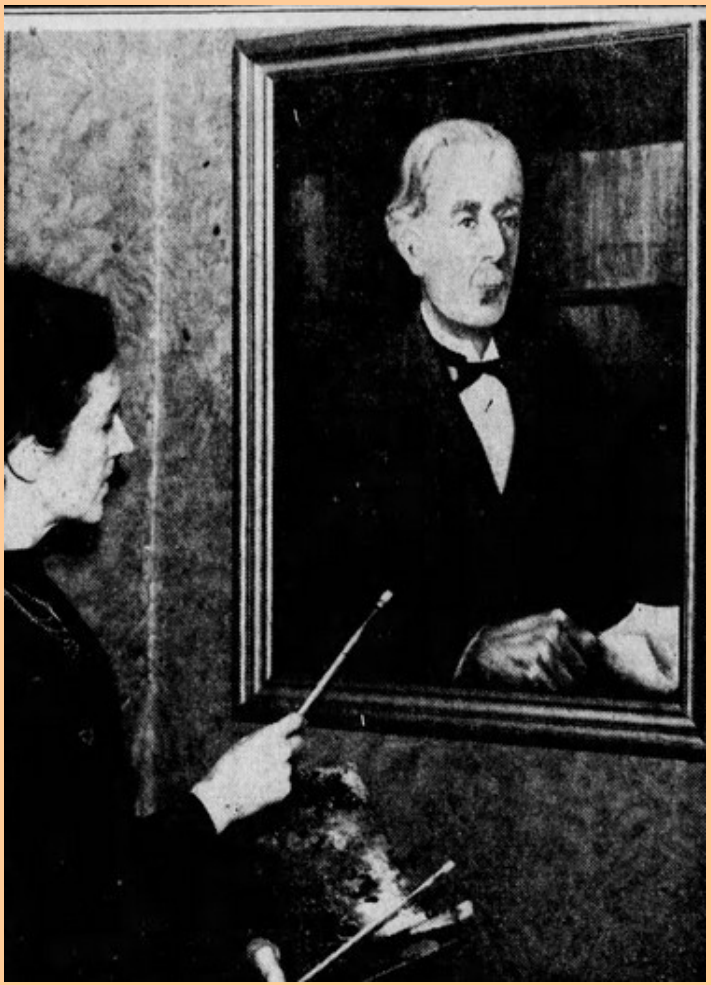


Photo of Ella Hartshorn Yost taken in the front of the Yost House in 1937. Ella is wearing the dress from her wedding on November 18, 1890.

In the background you see the residence of the Reverend and Mrs. T. C. Hartshorn. Ella married Zoath in the parlor of her parents home, which was located across the street from the Yost House.

Yost House

Catharine Yost a Founding Member of the Amity Artist and Painters Club



•Miss Catherine Yost, member of the newly organized Amity Artists and Painters Club, looks over one of her portraits.

•Members of the club, which was started this spring, come from all over Livingston County, and with the advent of spring weather, will start their outdoors work, usually meeting on Sunday afternoons.

•Purpose of the club is to promote art in the county.

Yost House

Mr. Yost

Mrs. Yost

50th Wedding Anniversary in 1940

Yost House

Miss Catherine Yost completes hanging her original painting, "Helene" at the exhibit.

1941

Yost House

Pantagraph Negative

Yost House

Hellene Yost Gives Book Review at Pontiac 20th Century Club

The January 12, 1943, Pantagraph reported that Hellene Yost gave a book review on Van Loon's book titled ***Lives.***

She apparently liked to read and gave many book reviews.

Yost House

OPEN DISCUSSION. Paul Yost discusses some of the fine points of portrait painting, using his sister, Catherine's, painting of "Miss Ruth Gorto, Virginia Beach," as an example.

1944

Yost House

Starting in 1945, annual art exhibits in old Mill

Yost House

Williams Mill Burns in April of 1955

- The mill at the Mill Street Bridge was a popular tourist attraction and it was photographed and painted by many artists. The Amitytown Painters Society held their annual art exhibitions at the old Williams Mill.

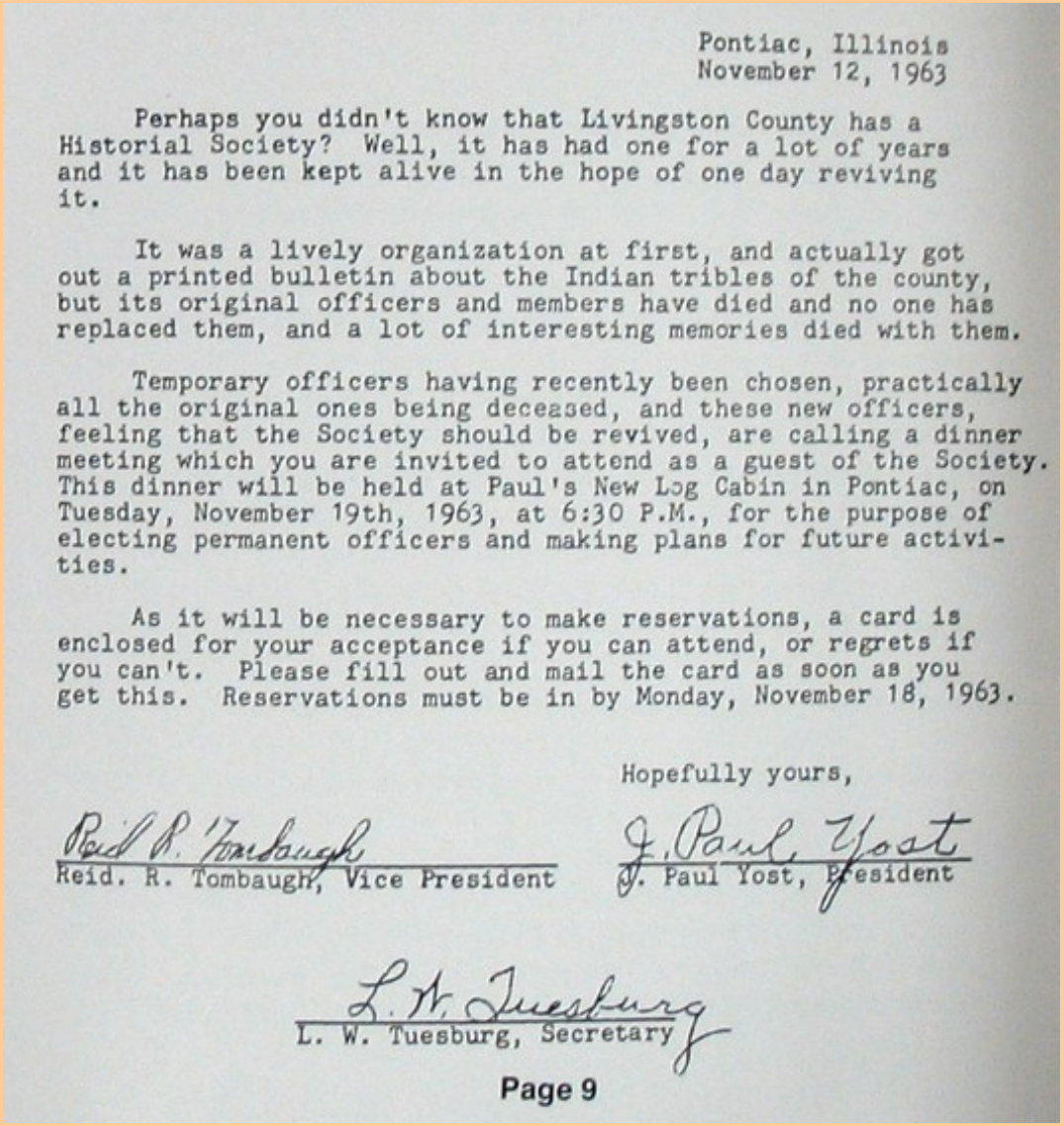
- The April 10, 1955, Pantagraph published a story about a major fire at the mill. A few years after this major fire, the mill was completely torn down.

Yost House

Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost Combine to Create a Pontiac Play in 1955

The Pontiac Presbyterian church decided to have a play to celebrate their 100 years of existence. All three children of Zoath Yost volunteered to help create and conduct this play.

Yost House



Pontiac, Illinois
November 12, 1963

Perhaps you didn't know that Livingston County has a Historial Society? Well, it has had one for a lot of years and it has been kept alive in the hope of one day reviving it.

It was a lively organization at first, and actually got out a printed bulletin about the Indian tribles of the county, but its original officers and members have died and no one has replaced them, and a lot of interesting memories died with them.

Temporary officers having recently been chosen, practically all the original ones being deceased, and these new officers, feeling that the Society should be revived, are calling a dinner meeting which you are invited to attend as a guest of the Society. This dinner will be held at Paul's New Log Cabin in Pontiac, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1963, at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of electing permanent officers and making plans for future activities.

As it will be necessary to make reservations, a card is enclosed for your acceptance if you can attend, or regrets if you can't. Please fill out and mail the card as soon as you get this. Reservations must be in by Monday, November 18, 1963.

Hopefully yours,

Reid R. Tombaugh
Reid. R. Tombaugh, Vice President

J. Paul Yost
J. Paul Yost, President

L. W. Tuesburg
L. W. Tuesburg, Secretary

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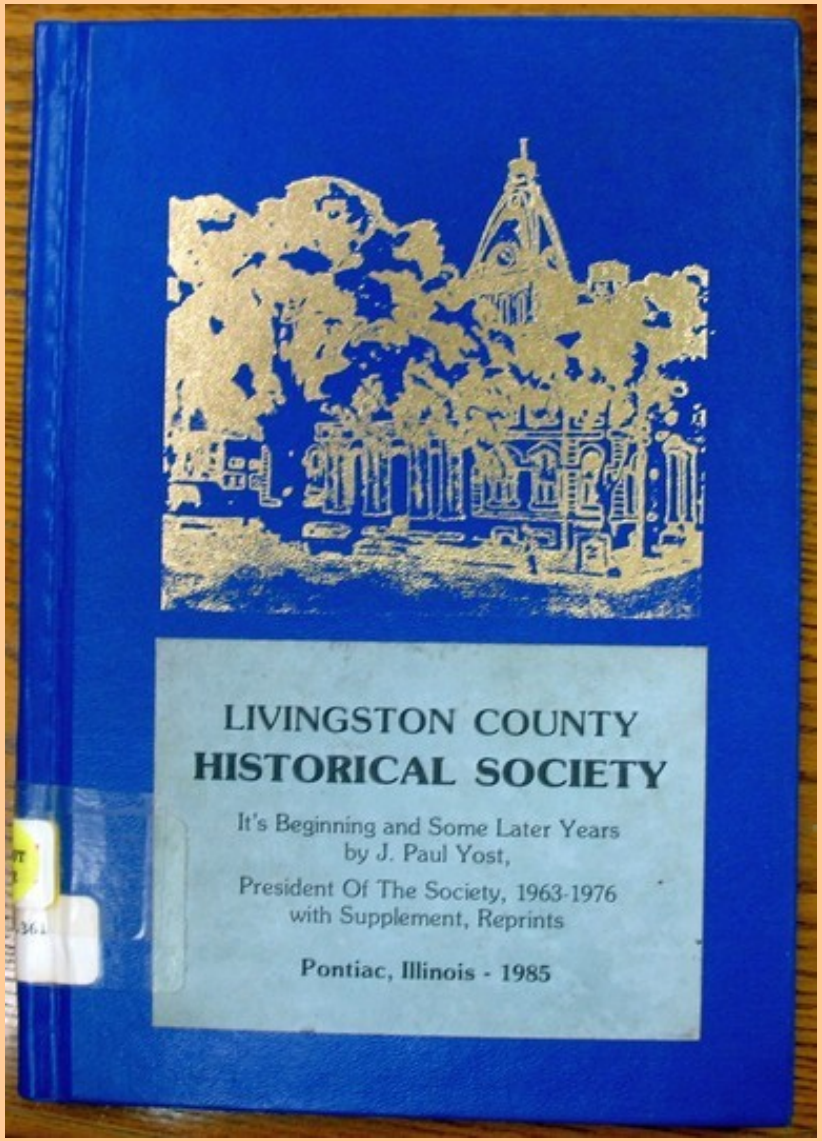
After being dormant for 26 years, Yost family helped get Historical Society going again !

Yost House

32nd Annual Amitytown Exhibition Held in 1972

TURTLE SCULPTURE. Andrew Smith, left, is exhibiting two pieces of sculpture. His welded turtle is checked by Robert Sear, Pontiac Township High art instructor.

Yost House


LIVINGSTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
It's Beginning and Some Later Years
by J. Paul Yost,
President Of The Society, 1963-1976
with Supplement, Reprints
Pontiac, Illinois - 1985

Yost House

- **Paul Yost Leaves the Yost House to the City of Pontiac**

- A December 5, 1989, Pantagraph article reported that Paul Yost had left two houses to the City of Pontiac in his will.

- In other action, the council agreed to solicit proposed uses from the public for two properties given to the city as a gift by the late Paul Yost. The city received homes at 230 and 298 W. Water Street as gifts in Yost's will. The city has not yet agreed to accept the gifts, choosing instead to look at possible uses first.

Yost House

Economics

So, the primary income sources for the three Yost children likely came from the sources below.

1. Cash rent from McLean County farm.
2. Cash rent from the Livingston County farm.
3. Cash rent from the Kansas farm.
4. Rent from the Hartshorn house in Pontiac.
5. Social Security income

Yost House

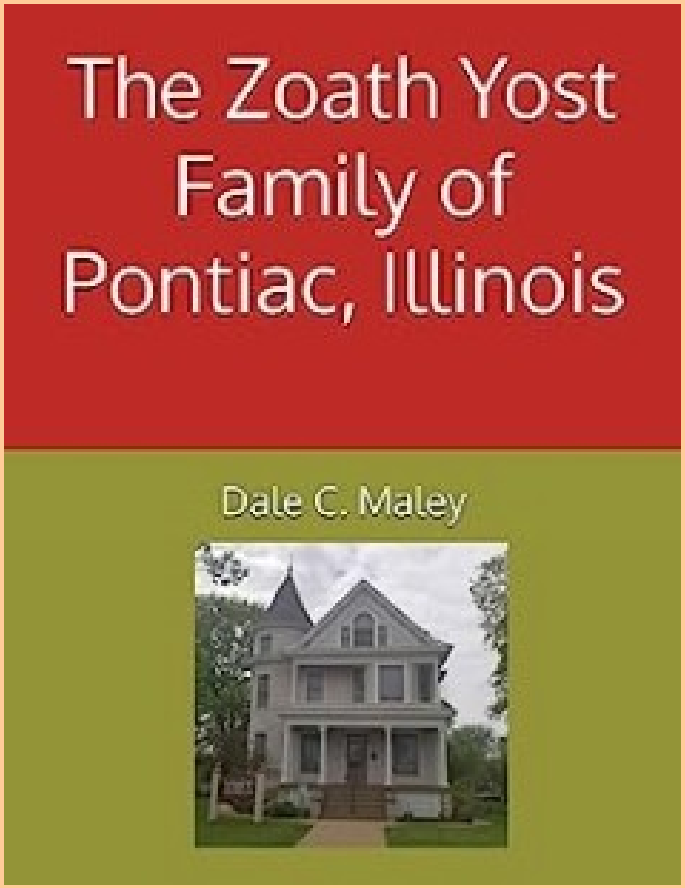
Why Did None of the Three Yost Children Ever Marry?

- Based upon the general population statistics of their era, all three children should have married.

- In a 2006 Pantagraph article, Beth Close, curator of the Yost House at that time, speculated the three children never married because the family found a lasting companionship among each other.

- "They had all they needed with their books, music, social network, and each other."

Yost House

In conclusion, this author agrees with Bob Sear's 1991 quote that Bob always thought of the Yost family as, "The Last of the Aristocrats."

Questions?